

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
Figure 2 illustrates block diagram ~~100~~ 120 providing an overview of a command merge system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. Block diagram 120 displays the operating system 122 generating a number of read and/or write commands C_1-C_n 124, which are sent to a driver queue 126. As mentioned above, the commands 124 accumulate in the disk driver queue 126 since the CPU is so much faster than the disk drive 132 which is the ultimate destination of the commands 124. In the driver queue 126, the commands are examined while the drive 132 is processing an issued command. For example, the drive may be processing C_0 while commands C_1-C_n 124 are accumulating in the disk ~~drive~~ driver queue 126. The examined commands in the driver queue are then combined where possible. For example, if the commands 124 contain contiguous writes on the drive side, the contiguous write commands are combined into a new command C_x 128 which is then issued to the disk drive 132. It should be appreciated that the same is true for contiguous read commands. Thus, with one command being issued for multiple contiguous read and/or write commands there is only one interrupt generated from the drive. As illustrated in Figure 2, the command response $C_{x \text{ response}}$ 130 is generated by the drive 132 to notify the disk driver that C_x 128 has been processed.

TITLE

Please change the title to :

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MERGING CONTIGUOUS LIKE
COMMANDS**